### To the professional using this “gatepost task”

Please read through the entire text below before you meet with the young person to discuss their reading level.

### Questions to ask

Say to the young person,

* “Today we’re going to do a few tasks on the computer to find out about your reading level, OK?”
* “First, I’m going to show you a picture with a bit of writing that I want you to read, then I’ll ask you some questions. You can use this pen to underline things if you need to, OK? (hand over a pen and a copy of the picture and text)
* Give the young person the picture and text provided then say “Take your time to read the text, then I’ll ask you a few questions”
* Allow the young person as much time as they need
* Ask them (orally) the following questions in the table.
* Do not help them to read the text.
* Readers should answer orally.
* Do not comment about their answers – just say “uh, huh” and move to the next one, or say “Ok, that’s enough, now we’re going to do the computer tasks I talked about before.”
* Select the appropriate online test based on the comment and indicator column of the table

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Question | Correct answer: | Comment and indicator |
| Q. 1 What do you think the story is about?  AND  What is the weather like?  What words tell you that? | *Any of these :*  A waterhole  A dangerous waterhole  A crocodile  Some kids who want to swim in a waterhole  A girl dares a boy to dive into a waterhole  *Reader must identify the words, not just base response on the picture.*  Hot / sunny/summer.  Sun/ sparkled /  heat. The water is inviting | If either answer is **incorrect** the young person should be asked to sit the Level 1 test.  If **both** **correct** then ask the next question. |
| Q. 2 What happened “last week” in the story?  AND  According to the story, is it safe to jump in the waterhole now?  Why/why not? | A big crocodile was caught by wildlife workers  No, another dangerous crocodile might be around | If either answer is **incorrect** the young person should be asked to sit the Level 2 test.  If **both correct** then ask the next question. |
| Q. 3 Look at the second paragraph. How do you think Pete feels?  Explain your answer. | nervous/scared /anxious/ embarrassed/challenged etc.  *Any reasonable explanation based on the text eg:*  There might be a crocodile in the water.  He is worried that he will look scared in front o f the gang.  He is frightened by Jindi’s dare.  He might feel pressured to jump in even though it is dangerous | If **incorrect** the young person should be asked to sit the Level 2 test.  If **correct** then the young person should be asked to sit the Level 3 test. |



**Waterhole**

Jindi and Pete stood on a rock halfway down the waterhole. Soon the whole gang had climbed down there. The sun sparkled on the water in the heat. It looked so inviting – every kid wanted to jump in screaming, as they had done many times before.

Last week a massive crocodile had been caught by the wildlife guys. So, after a week off, the kids were desperate to get back in the water. The only problem was that a smaller one - just as hungry - was still in the area. The gang gathered around tightly. Jindi squinted up at Pete. “Dare ya…” she said softly, her eyes holding his gaze.